

Amended Patent claims:

1 1. (original) A main or press cylinder of a tube and
2 extrusion press which is arranged in a cylinder beam and has as its
3 cylinder housing a press piston connected with a cantilevered rod
4 which projects out of the cylinder housing, characterized in that
5 the rod (9) is formed with an integrated forward advance and
6 retraction cylinder (12) and in an axial hollow bore (13) receives
7 a telescope tube (15) forming a pressurizable space (18) which is
8 flow connected with an annular gap (16), the telescope tube (15)
9 being concentrically surrounded by a housing shell (17) and being
10 held stationary at its end projecting from the rod (9) together
11 with the housing shell (17) in a hydraulic connecting block (14)
12 which has flow connections (23; 24) opening into the telescope tube
13 (15) and into the annular gap (16).

1 2. (original) The main or press cylinder according to
2 claim 1 characterized in that the hollow bore (13) is sealed with a
3 piston-like packing (21) against the housing sleeve (17) along
4 which the packing slides at the end of the rod upon application of
5 fluid pressure.

1 3. (currently amended) The main or press cylinder
2 according to claim 1-~~or 2~~ characterized in that the end of the
3 telescope tube (15) lying in the hollow bore (18) is configured

4 with a thickened head (20) sealing the annular gap (16) and
5 fastening the telescope tube (15) on the housing sleeve (17) which
6 has at this end a radial collar (19) sealing against the inner wall
7 of the hollow bore (13).

1 4. (original) The main or press cylinder according to
2 claim 3 characterized in that the pressurizable space (18) is
3 connected with the annular gap (16) by bores (22) in the radial
4 collar (19).

5 5. (currently amended) The main or press cylinder
6 according to ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 characterized in that the
7 cylinder chamber (28) of the main cylinder housing (3) has a guide
8 (10) for the press piston (5) and the cylinder housing bottom (8)
9 is configured with a guide (11) for the rod (9).

10 6. (currently amended) A main or press cylinder of a
11 tube and extrusion press which is arranged in a cylinder beam and
12 in its cylinder housing has a press piston with a cantilevered rod
13 projecting from the cylinder housing, especially in accordance with
14 ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 characterized in that the free
15 cantilevered end of the rod (9) is surrounded by a compensating
16 vessel (30) fastened onto the main cylinder housing (3) in which a
17 slider (31) arranged on the rod end remote from the main cylinder
18 housing (3), sealed against the vessel inner wall, slides upon the
19 application of pressure to the press piston (5), whereby the space

20 (33) formed between the rod (9) and the compensating vessel (30)
21 and closed at its end by the slider (31) is provided with a flow
22 connection with cylinder chamber (28) behind the press piston (5)
23 of the main cylinder housing (3) and into which a pressurized oil
24 conduit (27) also opens.

1 7. (original) The main or press cylinder according to
2 claim 6 characterized in that the space (33) of the compensating
3 vessel (30) is additionally connected to a tank conduit (34).

1 8. (currently amended) The main or press cylinder
2 according to claim 6-~~or~~-7, characterized in that in the connecting
3 lines (35) formed in the cylinder housing bottom (8) and
4 communicating between the space (33) and the cylinder chamber (28)
5 behind the press piston (5), switchable blocking valves (36) are
6 provided.

This preliminary amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple claim dependencies and to provide the cross reference of the present US phase of PCT/DE2003/002621 to the international application, according to Rule 78.

Respectfully submitted,
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